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97. (New) An assay composition comprising the microparticle of claim 1 and at least one assay component selected from the group consisting of electrochemiluminescence co-reactant and binding reagent.

98. (New) A method for conducting electrochemiluminescence measurements for a binding analyte-of-interest comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a complex comprising
 - (i) said analyte,
 - (ii) a microparticle comprising a core and electrochemiluminescent moieties within said core and having one or more copies of an assay-ligand immobilized on its surface; and
 - (iii) an assay-ligand immobilized on an electrode.
- (b) conducting an electrochemiluminescence measurement at said electrode in the presence of electrochemiluminescence reactants.

REMARKS

Pending claim 1 was cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 78-98 are hereby submitted for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added.

No marked up version of the claims are submitted since all of previously pending claims were cancelled. 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Applicants believe these new claims 79-98 are patentable and in condition for allowance. These claims are supported in, for example, the specification (e.g., p. 20, lines 12-15), the examples and the original claims as filed.

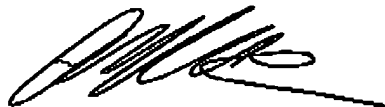
Furthermore, Applicants are not aware of any prior art that has all of the elements of the claims or which in proper combination with other prior art would provide all of the

elements of the claims. For example, none of the prior art teaches a microparticle comprising a core and electrochemiluminescent moieties blended within said core.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is authorized to charge \$9.00 or any other deficient fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0540 to cover the cost for a small entity of one extra claim in excess of twenty.

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